



**Dave McCready CEO**

## Opportunities for all

Probably like everyone with an email account, I tend to receive a huge volume of electronic mail each month from a wide variety of organisations offering their services, providing research updates and asking me to complete one survey or another. A regular addition to my Trust 'in box' is the monthly DfE report regarding the make up of the school system, in terms of maintained schools, academies, free schools and UTCs. Although this may seem rather dull, it does provide a valuable insight into the education system of which we are a part, with the latest version dated 1 January informing the reader that:

- there were 9,041 academies, free schools and UTCs across the country
- this represents 41.9% of all schools
- 77.0% of secondary schools are academies
- these academies reside in one of the 2,705 trusts that have been established
- 55.5% of the trusts are made up of a single academy
- only 1.8% can be considered as one of the large national trusts, made up of at least 21 academies
- our Trust sits as one of the 265 medium sized trusts that make up 9.8% of the system, with between 6 and 10 academies

These statistics led me to consider two questions:

- Why did the vast majority of these schools make the decision to convert?
- What benefits are the 7,500 academies who are in a MAT getting?

I could spend many hours answering both questions but the underlying benefit for me is the huge opportunities it brings to everyone in the Trust for working collaboratively for the benefit of each and every learner.

This newsletter once again provides examples of this approach working effectively in our Trust. I hope you agree.



## Support Staff Conference



**Sarah Young**  
Director of Education

We were delighted to welcome almost 300 colleagues to our inaugural support staff conference at the Mercure Grange Willerby on the first day back in January. As well as providing an update on developments at the Trust, the aim of the day was to focus on how we can all support our learners, whatever our individual role. Speakers included: Tracy Bradley from Humberside Police talking about Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), Geoff Ogden and Mary Moverley from St Anne's School talking from a more local and personal perspective about support for young people with additional needs and concluding with Phil Jones, Educational Consultant ASCL and National Chair, National Association for Pastoral Care in Education, talking from a national perspective. A feedback survey was sent out to staff after the event and data from this will be used

to inform future conferences. Thanks to all those staff who have completed the survey, your views are important to us.

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**David Brooke**  
Head of ICT

## ICT Perception Survey results

Thank you to everyone who completed the ICT Perception Survey. There were a number of key themes raised by colleagues, the most common being:

- Remote Access
- Wireless
- Reliability
- Training
- Roaming
- Parental Communication
- Access to devices

Further detail about how we will be addressing these issues will be shared with you shortly as part of the wider ICT Strategy.

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**Patrick Morris**  
Head of Estates

## Northern Forest update

Dates are now in the diary for the Northern Forest tree planting project at several of our Trust academies: Cottingham High School and Sixth Form College, Croxby Primary School, Holderness Academy and Sixth Form College and Wolfreton School and Sixth Form College. We are hoping that our learners across the academies will be able to take an active part in the planting and a report on this will follow later this year.



**David Hilton**  
Academy  
Improvement  
Leader

## Dates for your diary:

### Teach Meets

Following the successful Closing the Gap Teach Meet at Cottingham in December, a reminder of the next upcoming opportunities:

11 March Driving Challenge (at Hessle)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/driving-challenge-tickets-80263076021>

6 May Creative Curriculumms (at Winifred Holtby)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/creative-curriculumms-tickets-80265226453>

24 June Engage and Inspire (at Wolfreton)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/engage-and-inspire-tickets-80266592539>

For further information please contact [david.hilton@consortiumtrust.co.uk](mailto:david.hilton@consortiumtrust.co.uk)

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## New Central Services staff

Over recent weeks we have welcomed the following members of staff into positions within the Central Services Finance and HR teams:

Joanne Willerton	Academy Business Manager
Rebecca Ellis	Finance Officer (Banking)
Lauren Coupland-Oxley	Finance Assistant
Jacqui Hemsworth	Finance Assistant
Lynne Stothard	HR Assistant

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## Trustee update

We would like to thank out-going TCAT Trustees Ean Blair and Dave Willoughby. Ean also served on the Cottingham High LGB and the Consortium Sixth Form Partnership LGB and Dave was on the Hessle LGB for six years and was instrumental in the formation of the Trust model. We welcome new Trustee Phil Goatley.

We are always on the look out for new governors and there is currently one vacancy for a staff governor at Holderness. We also have a number of non-staff vacancies so if you know of anyone who may be interested in this role, please contact Gilly Stafford [gilly.stafford@consortiumtrust.co.uk](mailto:gilly.stafford@consortiumtrust.co.uk)

## Career Development @ TCAT



**Helen Boyd ICT  
Technician at  
Cottingham**

I work full time at Cottingham High School and Sixth Form College as an ICT Technician.

My journey with TCAT began in October 2017. At the time, I was working as an ICT Teaching Assistant at Croxby Primary School when I was offered the opportunity to share and develop my skills further, by working across the Trust.

I was appointed as an ICT Multimedia Technician and began working between three schools within the Trust: Croxby Primary, Peshurst Primary and Hessle High School and Sixth Form College. I believe I was one of the first few people to work across the Trust, which was quite nerve racking as I would be visiting new places, learning a new role and meeting new people... everyone was amazing and so friendly!

I learnt new technical and hands on skills, which allowed me to support both staff and learners. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting new people at different sites and taking on new challenges. A full time ICT Technician role then became available at Cottingham High School and Sixth Form College. I was a little apprehensive about applying for this post, as it was a full-on technical position. However, following the new skills and training gained from working between three sites, it seemed like a natural progression to continue my service within TCAT and to take further opportunities to continue my personal development.

Training and personal development are important to my role and over the last year I have learnt and developed yet more skills. I enjoy being a valued member of the ICT Team at Cottingham as well as being part of the Trust ICT Team, where the aim is to work in collaboration, standardising and improving ICT services across the Trust, which includes training courses working on shared tasks amongst other things. Since working for the Trust I have gained an enormous amount of experience, support, new skills and confidence.